STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

More than 530 delegates from forty-three states attended the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the National Legislative Conference, September 6-8, in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Participants from the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands also attended. Foreign guests included representatives from the Republic of China, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Special and standing committees of the conference met the day prior to the opening session to finalize committee reports.

Governor Farris Bryant of Florida, addressing the opening session, emphasized the role the delegates can play as individuals and as state leaders in assuring the continued growth and progress of America. Governor Bryant is a former member of the Florida legislature and was Chairman of its Legislative Council.

James A. Michener, noted author, speaking to a luncheon session, contrasted social differences between American and Oriental cultures.

Governor David L. Lawrence of Pennsylvania welcomed the state officials to Harrisburg, the state capitol, where workshop sessions were held in the House and Senate chambers. The Governor commended the delegates for their efforts to increase the efficiency of the legislative process. He suggested that the Conference explore new areas in which the legislative and executive branches may draw on common goals and understanding for the benefit of the citizens they serve.

A series of twenty concurrent workshops was held on fiscal review, bill drafting, post auditing, legislative research, legislative reference, and statutory revision. Special workshops for legislators and legislative clerks and secretaries also were held.

A survey of library services at the state level, now being conducted by the American Association of State Libraries of the American Library Association, was discussed at a special problems workshop. A highlight of the workshops for legislators was one under the heading "The Press Views the Legislature." Two reporters discussed problems faced in adequately reporting bill introductions and committee hearings, and a panel of legislators commented on facilities for the press in their state capitols.

At a closing business luncheon resolutions were adopted calling for action by the states and the federal government on a variety of problems. Included were resolutions urging changes in federal grant-in-aid procedures; greater cooperation among federal and state tax collection agencies; and assistance to cities in dealing with mass transit needs and problems of metropolitan areas generally. Other subjects of resolutions were broader jurisdiction for the states with respect to regulation of peaceful uses of atomic energy; state jurisdiction over rights of citizens residing on federally owned lands; and revision of federal and state inheritance tax laws.

The conference elected L. G. Merritt, Director of the South Carolina Legislative Council President for 1961-62. Representative W. Stuart Helm of Pennsylvania was elected Vice President. Other members elected to the Executive Committee were Senator Harold C. Giss, Arizona; Assemblyman Frederick H. Hauser, New Jersey; Senator Frank W. King, Ohio; Speaker of the House J. D. McCarty, Oklahoma; Speaker of the House James A. Turman, Texas; Representative Claude P. Watrous, Connecticut; Marcus Halbrook, Director, Arkansas Legislative Council; David V. Kerns, Director, Florida Legislative Reference Bureau; Clarence H. Koontz, Legislative Council, West Virginia; Norman E. Philleo, Clerk, Michigan House of Representatives; and Richard O. White, Revisor of Statutes, Washington.

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STATE BUDGET OFFICERS MEET

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Budget Officers was held August 20-24 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. More than 100 officials from thirty states attended.

A resolution adopted by the Association urged simplification of federal grant-in-aid programs. It called for state support of recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations for amendment of the Public Health Services Act of 1944 to permit transfer of up to one-third of federal grant funds from any one of the stated categories into any other stated category. The membership of the Association was also urged to review the reports of the Advisory Commission. Another resolution endorsed the work of the Association's Committee on State Budget Research.

A Committee of Regional Directors of the Association submitted a report recommending accrediting of professional staff members of state budget offices by the Association.

Abram M. Vermeulen of New Jersey, Director of the New Jersey Division of Budgeting and Accounting was elected President of the Association and James W. Bibb, Budget Director, Kansas, Vice President.

Other members elected to the Executive Committee are David R. Baldwin, Budget Secretary, Pennsylvania; Robert M. Cornett, Director, Division of Budget, Kentucky; Robert L. Harkness, Assistant Director, Department of Finance, California; Freeman Holmer, Director, Department of Finance and Administration, Oregon; T. Norman Herd, Director, Division of Budget, New York; Con F. Shea, Budget Officer, Colorado; and Paul Wileden, Director, Budget Division, Michigan.

MIDWESTERN BUDGET OFFICERS

The first Midwestern Regional Budget Workshop was held September 15-16 in Chicago. Thirty-seven budget analysts from nine states participated in the workshop -- which was held in line with a new regional alignment of the National Association of State Budget Officers.

The two-day meeting, under the direction of George A. Bell, Budget Officer in Missouri, examined budgetary techniques for regulatory agencies and for recreational and conservational agencies.

A special panel of administrative analysts discussed program management analysis and its relationship to the budget process. Budget technicians devoted one session to discussion of specific problem areas in budget analysis and execution.

In a final session the group recommended that seminar workshops at the staff level be scheduled twice a year.

SOUTHERN WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

The Conference on Southern Water Resources meeting in Richmond, Virginia, September 13 and 14, brought together more than 125 representatives from thirteen states, federal agencies and private groups.

Major presentations included addresses by Albertis S. Harrison, Jr., Democratic nominee for Governor of Virginia, and James Owen of the United States Department of Commerce.

Representatives of major manufacturing groups discussed industrial use of water. E. L. Hendricks of the United States Geological Survey spoke on water resources development. Harold H. Ellis of the United States Department of Agriculture described laws in eastern states governing rights to water use. Water pollution was discussed by Allen Kneese of Resources for the Future, Inc. Edward J. Cleary, Executive Director of the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission dealt with the use of interstate compacts in controlling pollution.

The conference elected for two year terms John W. Wakefield, Director of the Florida Division of Water Resources as Chairman and Marshall W. Qualls, Deputy Commissioner of Conservation in Kentucky as Vice Chairman. The two officers also serve on the program planning steering committee of the conference.

SOUTHWEST SEMINAR ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

A Southwest Seminar on Management and Uses of Nuclear Energy was held August 30-31 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. It provided more than 600 legislators and other state officials with a broad and intensive over-view of the applications of nuclear energy to modern living. In addition to state officials, participants included representatives from agriculture, business and industry, education and medicine, and other civic leaders from a five-state area.

The meeting was sponsored by agencies of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma

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and Texas in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission, the Defense Department, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration and the Regional Advisory Council on Nuclear Energy.

Major addresses were delivered by Commissioner Leland J. Haworth of the AEC, Dr. Wernher Von Braun of NASA, and Dr. Edward L. Teller of the University of California. Panels of experts from the region and the nation led discussion sessions dealing with the atom in agriculture, industry and power, medicine and public health, and radiation. Related problems affecting insurance, workmen's compensation and transportation also received attention. Still other sessions were devoted to transfer of responsibility for regulation from the federal to state government, education in the nuclear age, and peaceful uses of nuclear explosives.

WESTERN ATTORNEYS GENERAL

The Conference of Western Attorneys General ended its 1961 sessions at Glacier Park, Montana, August 27-30, by urging the Executive Committee of the National Association of Attorneys General to study seriously the advisability of sponsoring federal legislation that would give the states the right to sue the United States.

Such legislation, a resolution stated, would serve as a means of clearing up increasing controversies between the two levels of government which cannot be adjudicated in the courts under present laws.

The Association's Executive Committee also was asked to consider the feasibility and desirability of inviting the chief legal officers of American Samoa, the trust territories and other United States jurisdictions in the Pacific to participate in the programs and activities of the Association and the Conference of Western Attorneys General.

Other resolutions urged the federal government to retain the present differential in favor of West Coast shipbuilding; reaffirmed the National Association's support of the general aim of several bills before Congress to add additional means for combating interstate crime; and urged every citizen to become fully informed on the goals and techniques of the world communist movement and its irreconcilable conflict with United States values, institutions and fundamental philosophy of government based on the rule of law.

The Conference reiterated previous stands recording support of continued efforts by the National Association's Committee on Habeas Corpus to reach agreement with the Federal Judicial Conference and the United States Department of Justice on corrective federal legislation to end abuse of the writ of habeas corpus. It urged federal legislation recognizing the laws of the states as the sole and exclusive means of establishing property rights in the appropriation, diversion, use or storage of surface and underground waters.

In three half-days of discussion, the Western Attorneys General exchanged views and information on legal aspects of a Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest electrical intertie; current legal problems in Indian affairs; conflicts of interest in state government; the nature and extent of statutory and administrative control on federal grants to the states; consumer protection at the state level; and state action to prevent non-competitive bids.

At luncheon meetings the Conference heard presentations on "The Problems of Internal Security in a Free Society" by William C. Sullivan, Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and "The Role of State Governments in Enforcing Individual Civil Rights" by Stanley Mosk, Attorney General of California.

Attorney General Walter L. Budge of Utah will be Chairman for the coming year, succeeding Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton of Oregon.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Arkansas -- The Arkansas legislature approved operating expenditures of about $335 million annually for the biennium -- $30 million more than the level of previous authorizations.

The general revenue fund was set at $111 million annually, compared with $93 million previously authorized. About 75 per cent of the increase was allocated for education.

Dealing with health and welfare, the legislature raised maximum benefits for the permanent and totally disabled and the needy blind to $65 a month. Other measures established a Division of Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the Board of Health and authorized cities to develop and operate nursing homes and to use available revenues and proceeds of revenue bonds for this purpose.

A $20 million bond issue, subject to approval by the electorate, was approved for federal highway matching funds. Other highway enactments recognize chemical tests in drunken driving cases; establish a ten-day imprisonment penalty for driving during periods when a license is expired or revocations are in effect; and make adults permitting minors responsible to them liable for damages caused by negligence or willful misconduct of the minor while driving.

The legislature authorized investment of teacher retirement funds in local industrial development corporation bonds. It approved a referendum among members of the teacher retirement system concerning extension of social security coverage. Other

education measures authorize county boards of education to alter boundary lines in cases of school districts with territory in more than one county; allow school districts to enter into compacts for sharing of facilities; and authorize consolidations of up to four separate school districts with the approval of the electorate of each affected district.

The legislature approved a number of constitutional amendments to be referred to the voters in 1962. One would assure that no child is to be denied free public schooling for refusing to attend an integrated school. Another removes the ceilings on city taxing powers and requires that new city taxes be approved by a majority of the electors. A third provides a revised schedule of maximum salaries for officials in various classes of county and state constitutional offices. This proposal would permit increases in salaries to $18,000 for the Governor, $3,500 for the Lieutenant Governor, $8,000 for the Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Auditor, $10,000 for the Attorney General, and $7,500 for the Commissioner of Lands.

Other enactments authorize former legislators with at least fourteen years' service to join the state retirement system on payment of arrears with interest, and permit inclusion of municipal employees in the system. The legislature provided for a method of choosing presidential electors by placing the names of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates on the ballot.

A Motor Vehicle Commission was established for licensing of car dealers, salesmen, manufacturer's distributors and wholesalers. Other enactments provide civil and criminal remedies for the suppression of obscene literature and alter residence requirements in divorce proceedings to sixty days for either party at the time of complaint and ninety days for either party at the time of decree.

The session adopted the Southern Interstate Nuclear Compact. It also ratified the Uniform Commercial Code and the Uniform Division of Income for Tax Purposes Act as promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Kansas -- The 1961 Kansas legislature adopted a $363 million budget for fiscal 1962.

Liquor taxes were increased by 20 cents a gallon, and cigarettes and beer were made subject to the sales tax. These taxes combined are estimated to increase state revenues by about $3 million. Another tax measure exempts from the sales tax sales of newspapers and purchases of supplies such as paper and ink used in their production.

One measure prohibited cities from levying income or sales taxes and another calls for a Legislative Council study of the desirability of imposing further limitations or restrictions on the taxing powers of cities.

The legislature established a public employees retirement system. It covers most state employees and local units of government who may elect to come under the plan. Employees will contribute 4 per cent of their salaries up to $10,000; the state contribution will be 5.35 per cent of payroll -- estimated to cost nearly $4 million.

Salaries of elected state officials were increased. Beginning in January, 1963, the Governor will receive $20,000, the Attorney General $12,500, and other state officials $10,000. Supreme Court Justices will receive $17,000 ($17,500 for the Chief Justice) and District Court Judges $12,000. The legislature approved for submission to the voters in 1962 a constitutional amendment that would remove legislators' pay from the constitution.

State aid to schools was increased from $15 to $20 per pupil -- estimated to cost $8.8 million for 1962. Total state funds for elementary and secondary schools are $49 million. One education measure provides for voluntary formation of unified school districts, subject to approval by vote of the people. Public junior colleges were authorized to issue revenue bonds for construction of dormitories, libraries and other buildings.

The State Highway Commission was authorized to purchase tracts of land with authority to dispose of portions not needed for highway purposes. The legislature adopted a resolution calling for a two-year study by the Legislative Council of the needs, classifications and financing of all public streets and highways.

Cities were authorized to issue revenue bonds to provide for and equip buildings and sites for lease to agricultural, commercial, industrial and manufacturing users.

A twenty-five member Economic Development Commission was authorized to conduct a comprehensive two-year study and survey of economic conditions in the state. The committee, to be appointed by the Governor, was given a $25,000 appropriation. The legislature authorized creation of a Planning Division in the State Industrial Development Commission to receive and administer federal planning grants for cities under 50,000 population.

The session provided for development of increased water supply storage in federal reservoir projects. It recognized the repayment obligations involved under the Federal Water Supply Act of 1958 and assured the Army Corp of Engineers that the state or its political subdivisions will fulfill such obligations in adding water supply feeders to projects approved by the State Water Resources Board. Since the future

cost of the program could run into several millions of dollars, the legislature called for a two-year study by the Legislative Council of means for implementing the new policy.

The State Board of Probation and Parole was reorganized and a reception and diagnostic center established. The reorganized board will have three full-time members, permitting more careful screening before inmates are placed on parole. The new center when completed will provide intensive evaluation of all prisoners received from the courts prior to their assignment to institutional programs.

In other action the legislature approved a plan for reapportionment of congressional districts. A Civil Rights Commission was given strengthened powers to prohibit discrimination in employment on grounds of race, color or religion by employers of eight or more.

Maryland -- The Maryland legislature adopted a record $525 million operating budget -- $253 million in general fund authorizations, $178 million from special funds and more than $93 million in federal monies. Comparable figures for the previous fiscal year were a total of $482 million -- general fund, $233 million; special funds, $164 million; and $84 million in federal funds. Included in the total were education appropriations of $159 million, a raise of $12 million; $118 million in highway funds, a $10 million increase; $68 million for payments to local governments, a raise of $10 million; and $42 million for welfare purposes, up from $35 million.

A uniform 6 cent cigarette tax was adopted. This replaces a 3 cent state levy and local imposts ranging from 1 to 3 cents. The starting point for sales taxes was lowered from 51 to 25 cents. The added proceeds will finance an expanded program of aid to local governments.

An $18 million capital improvements bond program was approved, and the state tax rate to service such bond issues was raised to 16 cents per $100 of property valuations. Apart from this program, $45 million in state debt was authorized for other capital expenditures including $20 million for public school construction, $18 million for the state port authority and $5 million for community or junior colleges.

The legislature provided for the inspection and regulation of hospitals and established a $1.5 million state program to supplement federal grants for public and other nonprofit nursing homes. The Health and Mental Hygiene Departments were placed under a single board.

Other enactments raised maximum unemployment compensation benefits from $35 to $38 a week; tightened eligibility requirements; extended from three to five years the period in which death from injury must occur for beneficiaries to receive workmen's compensation benefits; and placed a limitation of 10 cents per $100 of assessable property on county contributions to public welfare.

Education measures provide for a $400 increase in state pay for teachers and raise the pay scales for county school superintendents to a range of $12,000 to $16,000. School boards were authorized to establish and maintain community and junior colleges, and a $5 million fund was set up for equal matching grants for their construction by localities.

In highway safety legislation, the fee for learner driver licenses was raised from $1 to $5, the added profits to be used to finance a new matching grant program of driver education in public high schools. Another measure prohibits claims against an unsatisfied judgement fund by uninsured motorists.

A municipal court system for the City of Baltimore was established. A Metropolitan Transit Authority for the Greater Baltimore area was created, with authority to regulate mass transit and power to take over systems providing inadequate service. The State Health Department was directed to assist localities in planning waste disposal systems. The legislature authorized partial or total exemption of fallout shelters from real estate taxes.

It adopted a "Conflict of Interest" measure applying to members and employees of state agencies. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and employees of the State Library were placed in the state merit system. The position of Deputy State Superintendent of Schools was established. The legislature prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed or origin in state employment and promotion practices. Another measure requires nondiscrimination clauses in state construction contracts and sub-contracts.

Mississippi Special Session -- The Mississippi legislature in a special session on August 23-25, approved two constitutional amendments for submission to the voters.

One would extend from five to ten years the period for which new or expanded industries may be given property tax exemption by counties and the state. Municipalities already have the authority to grant ten year exemptions.

The second amendment would alter existing provisions which forbid sale of school lands and limit leaseholds on them to twenty-five years in the case of counties and ninety-nine years when such lands are situated within municipalities. The proposal would permit such lands outside of municipalities to be sold for industrial purposes or exchanged

for other lands -- the benefits to continue to accrue to the schools.

Ohio -- The 1961 Ohio legislature appropriated more than $2 billion for state operation in the 1961-63 biennium. The total exceeds figures for the last biennium by $200 million.

Appropriations from the general fund included $450 million for the school foundation program; $119.9 million for the state universities; $167.5 million for aid to aged; $47.5 million for state poor relief assistance; $21.8 million for aid to dependent children; and $188.7 million for mental hygiene and corrections. A supplemental appropriation of $7.5 million was made to the Department of Public Welfare for liabilities or deficiencies incurred in local poor relief programs prior to July 1, 1961.

The legislature eliminated use of prepaid tax receipt stamps for paying sales and use taxes and substituted the filing of periodic returns by all vendors. It reduced the franchise fee charged investment companies from 3/10 of 1 per cent to 1/10 of 1 per cent. Another enactment authorizes the taxing authority of any subdivision of the state to submit a tax levy question to the electorate. The cigarette tax was declared a direct tax upon the consumer, thus permitting the consumer to deduct it from federal income tax. Similarly, several other taxes were declared direct taxes on the consumer.

The legislature required the Department of Public Works to make available State House office space for the Governor-elect, beginning on the first Monday in December after election, and the Department of Finance was required to make available to the Governor-elect all information concerning the state's income, revenues and preparation of the budget. It also was required to furnish one or more department employees to assist the Governor-elect in studying this information.

A Higher Education Assistance Commission of nine members was established, authorized to guarantee up to 80 per cent of the unpaid principal and interest on loans made by banks to Ohio residents who are attending or planning to attend college. A maximum interest charge of 5½ per cent on guaranteed loans was set. The act also provides that ½ of 1 per cent of the interest charge be paid to the commission to pay administrative expenses and to build up a guarantee reserve fund. Another education measure authorizes establishment of community college districts for operation of two-year community college programs. This measure establishes a state community college board of seven participating and two advisory members.

The legislature enacted a billboard control law designed to conform with federal requirements qualifying for the federal bonus for such controls. A state highway safety fund was created, subject to appropriation, to pay the expenses of administering the automobile registration and safety laws and to pay expenses of administering the law to provide reimbursement to hospitals for care of indigents injured in motor vehicle accidents. Another measure prohibits selling, leasing or operating any passenger car registered or to be registered in the state, and assembled on or after next January 1, unless equipped with anchors for attaching at least two sets of front seat safety belts.

Among other measures the legislature enacted the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act, the Uniform Fraudulent Conveyances Act and the Uniform Commercial Code. It authorized a "continuity of government" constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters in November, 1961. Another constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters would provide that appointment to state office is subject to advice and consent of the senate if required by law. The amendment, would also ratify all previous statutory enactments requiring senate advice and consent.

Pennsylvania -- The Pennsylvania legislature passed a general appropriation act for the next fiscal year of slightly over $899 million. In addition it approved a series of special appropriation measures to provide state aid for universities, hospitals and other institutions, and approved expenditure of $475 million for highway purposes.

Three major state authorities were authorized to increase their borrowing by a total of $857 million.

Considerable additional revenue was provided by increasing taxes on corporate incomes, stock, realty transfers, insurance company premiums and other business activities, and by providing for accelerated collections of some taxes. The gasoline tax rate was increased from 5 to 7 cents a gallon, and the amount of gasoline tax revenue apportioned to local units was changed.

Final legislative approval was given to a proposed constitutional amendment to remove the one-term limitation on the Governorship and to a similar amendment applying to the office of County Treasurer. (Constitutional amendments require approval by two successive legislatures.) To become effective both amendments must be approved by the electorate. Initial legislative approval was given to a similar amendment applying to the offices of State Auditor and State Treasurer. The legislature also approved for the first time an amendment to remove the constitutional limitation on state indebtedness and to permit the state to issue bonds directly rather than through public authorities.

A sum of $13.5 million was provided for pay raises for state employees, and additional funds were made available for salary increases for judges. A special expense allowance of $3,000 per year was voted for legislators.

More than $427 million was voted for state aid for schools. The legislature provided for reorganization to reduce the number of school districts from about 2,200 to approximately 500; most districts will be required to have a minimum enrollment of 2,500 pupils each.

Legislation was passed for establishment of area technical schools, and the state was authorized to provide vocational courses in areas in which local districts do not provide such education. Special provision was made for the education of children of migrant farm workers.

More than $36 million was provided for state-aided colleges and universities. The legislature authorized broadening of programs at state teachers' colleges to transform them into liberal art schools. An anti-discrimination measure was passed applying to all colleges and universities in the state. A new program of state aid for local and regional libraries was begun.

The session adopted a measure regulating billboards on the interstate system. It authorized use of radar by the state police, required suspected drivers to submit to chemical tests for intoxication or lose their licenses, provided special drivers' licenses for 16 and 17 year-olds, and forbade these young drivers to drive between midnight and 5:00 A.M.

The Interstate Compact on Mental Health was ratified. Hospitals throughout the state received grants totaling more than $18 million; another $500,000 was provided in state aid for various types of homes, including orphanages. State aid was made available for school nurses. Participation was authorized in the federal program to provide medical care for the aged. State grants were authorized to local units to combat juvenile delinquency.

The session established an area redevelopment program and revised the Industrial Development Authority Act. It provided funds to promote tourist business in regions throughout the state, and increased grants for industrial development and urban renewal. New legislation was passed applying to strip mining, and the state was authorized to provide insurance for home owners against the hazards of mine subsidence. A state minimum wage of $1.00 per hour was approved.

A comprehensive act forbidding discrimination in the sale or rental of housing was adopted. The creation of historic districts was authorized. The legislature authorized townships to compensate tax collectors by salary rather than fees. It approved a proposed constitutional amendment for submission to the voters to exempt seriously injured veterans from payment of property taxes.

In other action the legislature ratified the Delaware River Basin Compact, approved amendments to the Potomac River Compact, and passed the Uniform Rendition of Prisoners as Witnesses Act.

South Carolina -- The South Carolina legislature adopted a spending program of $241 million for the fiscal year -- $184 million from the general fund and $57 million from highway imposts. Comparable figures for the previous fiscal year were $233 million, $178 million and $55 million, respectively. Larger appropriations for education account for most of the increase.

A measure was adopted to revise existing inheritance and death duties. The 1960 census figures were adopted for determining the allocation to each county of certain state revenues, with the proviso that no county will receive less than 95 per cent of amounts authorized according to the 1950 census.

The State House of Representatives was reapportioned. The legislature gave final approval to a constitutional amendment providing for temporary succession to state and local offices to assure continuity of government in the event of enemy attack. The amendment was previously approved by vote of the electorate. Travel allowance for private vehicles used on state business was increased from 7 to 9 cents a mile. The retirement pay for Supreme and Circuit Court Judges was raised from $8,000 to $9,000 per year.

The legislature established a system of grants for local mental health programs and licensing of institutions for the care and treatment of the mentally ill or defectives, alcoholics, drug addicts and epileptics. A Vocational Rehabilitation Agency was authorized to provide self-care rehabilitation services. A special fund financing the state's share for an expanded program for medical care of the indigent aged was increased by deducting for this purpose 50 cents from each personal income tax return.

The session established a Committee to Develop a Program of Vocational and Technical Training. A crash effort was outlined to provide immediate training in skills needed by new and established industries. It called for expanded emphasis on industrial arts in high schools and training of recent high school graduates as technicians. The legislature appropriated $280,000 for initial costs of this program.

Property owners were exempted from liability for public use of their property for civil defense shelter purposes. The legislature ratified the Southern Interstate Nuclear Compact.

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Wisconsin -- The Wisconsin legislature which convened January 11, recessed August 12 and is scheduled to reconvene October 30. In Wisconsin there is no limit to the time in which the Governor may sign bills. Following the 1959 legislative session, the Governor signed the last bill 100 days after adjournment.

Under legislation adopted, the total budget for the coming biennium will approximate $1.6 billion -- an increase of about $225 million over the past two years. Appropriations from the general fund will run slightly over $1 billion.

The Governor vetoed a tax measure which would have provided a broad 3 per cent retail sales tax; a refund on the sales tax of $12 to each person, to be deducted from the income tax; withholding of income taxes; forgiveness of income tax on 1961 income; elimination of certain personal property taxes; and general property tax relief.

Another tax measure, enacted by the legislature, places a higher corporate income tax on banks and makes savings and loan associations subject to the corporate tax. This is expected to increase revenues by $1.5 million in the biennium.

The Highway Department received an appropriation of $382 million -- more than half of it to keep existing roads in repair and nearly $50 million for interstate highway construction. Other measures require seat belts on the front seats of all new cars sold in the state beginning in 1962; give state aid for driver training courses in high schools; and provide that all traffic violations be prosecuted as civil cases.

The new budget adopted by the legislature includes faculty pay raises for the University of Wisconsin and nine state colleges -- 7 per cent in the first fiscal year and 5 per cent in the second.

The legislature approved a long-range, $50 million program to preserve and develop outdoor resources. The program, to cover a ten-year period, will be financed by a 1 cent cigarette tax. Included in it are $33 million for parks and forests; $2 million for easements along highways to preserve natural beauty; $9 million for fish and game habitat; $1.5 million for new lakes; $2.5 million for a youth conservation corps; and $392,000 for tourist information centers.

The legislature cleared the way for a court reorganization plan initially approved by the 1959 session. Under the plan which goes into effect in January 1962, there will be three types of courts in the state -- Supreme, Circuit and County. Justice of the Peace Courts are virtually eliminated, and other lower courts will become County Courts. The legislature created the post of Court Administrator. One law enforcement measure, signed by the Governor, makes evidence obtained by wire tapping inadmissable in state courts.

Some 16,000 state civil service workers received pay raises that will average 7.8 per cent for the biennium. The pay raise bill earmarks $5.4 million for salary increases in addition to $4.8 million in merit pay boosts.

A proposal for a constitutional amendment to reorganize the Executive Department failed. It would have merged seventy-three existing state agencies into twenty and would have extended the Governor's authority to make further changes in the governmental structure.

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